

## COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

## **NEWS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE December 1, 1999

Contact: Bart Hartman (619) 531-5225 Sonja Ireland (619) 595-4699

## TAX COLLECTOR SETS UP SHOP ON COUNTY LAWN Building Renovation Necessitates Move to Better Serve Taxpayers

San Diego County Treasurer/Tax Collector Bart Hartman took his business beyond the walls of the County Administration Center today, opening a 3,000-square-foot tent on the building's south lawn to accept property tax payments.

Space in the Tax Collector's offices has been severely constricted by scaffolding erected for the ongoing renovation of the historic County Administration Center. "With the scaffolding in place, any more than just a few people in line had become a serious inconvenience to our customers. It would have been impossible to accommodate the 3,000-4,000 taxpayers that come to the downtown County building during the December 1-10 'tax rush'." said Treasurer/Tax Collector Bart Hartman. "We believe that this tent will allow us to provide the best service possible to the public, given the circumstances."

A popcorn machine, donated by Classic Party Rentals, will also be a fixture in the tent. The Office of the Tax Collector will donate all proceeds from popcorn sales to Polinsky Children's Center.

The tent will be open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday–Friday, through the December 10, when the first installment of property tax payments are due.

###